

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G06F 17/60	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/24926 (43) International Publication Date: 20 May 1999 (20.05.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL98/00651		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date: 11 November 1998 (11.11.98)		
(30) Priority Data: 1007525 12 November 1997 (12.11.97) NL		
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MMP OBEC [NL/NL]; Horsten 1.15, NL-5612 AX Eindhoven (NL).		
(72) Inventor; and		
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DIEBEN, Ebo, Paul [NL/NL]; Grote berg 44d, NL-5611 KL Eindhoven (NL).		
(74) Agent: VAN BREDA, Jacques; Octrooibureau Los en Stigter B.V., Weteringschans 96, NL-1017 XS Amsterdam (NL).		

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR TRANSMITTAL AND RECEIPT OF INFORMATION**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to a system for the transmittal and receipt of data comprising an electronic data storage device for the electronic storage of data, associated with scattered communication means for procuring data from and transmitting data to the electronic data storage device. The system is used together with separately applied message traffic selected from the group comprising a letter, an e-mail, a facsimile, which selection is provided with a file reference corresponding with data individualized with respect to the recipient of such selection, which data is stored in the electronic data storage device. The electronic data storage device comprises at least one access reference relating to the recipient. Access to the individualized data in the electronic data storage device is released to one of the communication means after the file reference and a reference identical with the access reference has been transmitted by means of said communication means.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

System for transmittal and receipt of information

The invention relates to a system for the transmittal and receipt of data comprising an electronic data storage device for the electronic storage of data, associated with scattered communication means for procuring data 5 from and sending data to the electronic data storage device.

Such a device is known from various publications.

EP-A-0 375 138 describes a method for the restriction of the amount of electronic messages distributed via 10 a computer network. Each message is accompanied by an electronic profile relating to the recipient of the message, such as security classification, management level or address, or possibly data with respect to the source and type of message. The profile is compared with a desired 15 recipient profile that has been previously established. In this manner the routing of the messages can be automatically selected.

EP-A-0 375 139 relates to a method of notifying both the source and the intended recipient that the latter 20 was insufficiently authorized to receive the electronic message via a computer network. In this manner the intended recipient is given another opportunity to attempt to obtain adequate authorization for receiving the message.

EP-A-0 471 639 relates to a method of distributing 25 documents stored in a data processing system. To this end an identifying reference is created which is associated with a document. The reference identifies the document as well as the location where it is stored. The reference may 30 subsequently be selectively transmitted to users. The users to whom the identifying reference is transmitted may be provided with different access levels. The system may also comprise a provision for the recordal of a user accessing a document designated by the reference.

US-A-5 493 692 relates to a method for selectively 35 delivering electronic messages in a system of mobile and fixed devices, wherein additional data may be comprised in

the messages for the preservation of privacy, indication of priority or other data. The publication further mentions that users wear so-called active badges the size of a credit card which transmit an infrared signal to allow 5 the determination of a user's location. The user's location is then associated with the extent to which certain messages are then accessible to the user. The peripheral devices in the vicinity of the user are selected with respect to their suitability to receive a message intended 10 for the user.

The disadvantage of the known forms of electronic data traffic is that they are associated with various problems. For example, it is a problem that the legal status of electronically transmitted data is not clear, or 15 at least that it is doubtful how valuable as evidence data transmitted in this manner is. Also, there are question marks concerning the security aspect of such electronic data traffic, and it is usually not obvious whether a transmitted message actually has arrived at the recipient. 20 However, an important advantage of electronic data traffic is that the transmitted data can be quickly, simply and effectively stored in an electronic data storage device belonging to the recipient, for optional further processing.

25 It is the object of the invention to avoid the disadvantages of these known systems for transmitting and receiving.

To this end the invention proposes to use the system together with separately applied message traffic 30 selected from the group comprising a letter, an e-mail, a facsimile, which selection is provided with a file reference corresponding with data individualized with respect to the recipient of such selection, which data is stored in the electronic data storage device, and in that the 35 electronic data storage device comprises at least one access reference relating to the recipient, and that access to the individualized data in the electronic data storage device is released to one of the communication means after the file reference and a reference identical

with the access reference has been transmitted by means of said communication means.

By means of the system for the transmittal and receipt of data it is then possible to safely transmit 5 confidential data with the certainty that the respective data is only accessible to the recipient.

The presently existing electronic data traffic is applied in the invention such as to avoid the considerable disadvantage of data accessibility for third parties. Only 10 the recipient of the letter, facsimile or e-mail who approaches the data storage with the correct references is able to access the respective individualized data.

Notably, a further advantage of the invention is that it induces economization. For example, a single brief 15 note, facsimile or e-mail to the recipient or recipients may provide access to an extensive data file. In the case of correspondence, high mailing costs can be reduced, thereby also economizing on paper as far as those data are concerned that are communicated electronically only. This 20 advantage becomes particularly obvious if the system for data transmittal and receipt according to the invention is applied for the dispatch of so-called mailings. An important further advantage is that when the recipient consults the electronic data storage device, confirmation of 25 receipt becomes available to the transmitter due to the fact that the approach has been signalled electronically.

In a further aspect of the invention the system for data transmittal and receipt is characterized in that the file reference applied to the selection from the group 30 comprising a letter, an e-mail, a facsimile, is a machine-readable reference, in that the communication means comprise an intelligent terminal, associated with which is a device for reading the file reference and in that, after reading the file reference, the intelligent terminal creates 35 a reference which is adapted to the access reference and transmits it with the file reference to the electronic data storage device in order to obtain access to the individualized data. In this manner efficient processing of the respective data can take place by fairly simple means,

while the appropriate access reference may be physically associated with the intelligent terminal, without the users of said terminal having to have this reference on their person, or even being required to know it.

5 If the users are businesses, it is of advantage that the access reference is a reference adapted to the recipient of the letter, facsimile or e-mail such as, for instance, a trade registration number.

10 To further increase data traffic security, an embodiment of the system may moreover be provided such that the electronic data storage device further holds a pass-word, which is to be applied by the recipient and which is associated with the individualized data relating to the respective recipient and stored in the electronic data 15 storage device, and in that access to the individualized data in the electronic data storage device is released to one of the communication means subsequent to transmitting with it a reference corresponding to the pass-word. Under these circumstances the system according to the invention 20 may also safely be used in public surroundings.

The invention can, for example, be advantageously applied in such a manner that the electronic data storage device is part of internet. This affords the advantage of making use of an existing infrastructure, which is 25 equipped to transmit data over long distances at only local telephone charges. This contains the total cost for transmitting large data packets.

Another preferred embodiment of the system for the transmittal and reception of data according to the 30 invention is characterized in that the file reference on the letter or facsimile is a bar code, in that the electronic data storage device forms part of the internet, in that the communication means comprise a personal computer with which a bar code reader is associated as well as a 35 chip card reader, and in that a chip card is provided on which a reference is stored which reference is the same as the access reference, and possibly other references to protect access to the individualized data intended for the respective recipient. This allows the recipient much free-

dom of movement because his chip card carries the necessary data. This chip card can be read at any user location by a chip card reader associated with a personal computer able to access the internet, so that basically 5 the individualized data in the electronic data storage device are approachable from any location. To increase security, this device also comprises a further code in the form of a pass word. It is further desirable to combine the above-mentioned bar code with a URL.

10 The invention is further embodied in a letter to be applied in association with the device according to the invention, which letter is enclosed in a sealed window envelope such as to allow the file reference to be read through the window of the window envelope. In this manner 15 the staff in the post room is able to determine the sender of a letter without having to open it.

10 The person skilled in the art will find that the above specification clearly explains the appended claims embodying the invention and the exclusive rights requested 20 therefor. Within the scope of said claims the above-explained inventive idea may be freely varied without departing from said inventive idea and without leaving the protective scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A system for the transmittal and receipt of data comprising an electronic data storage device for the electronic storage of data, associated with scattered communication means for procuring data from and transmitting data to the electronic data storage device, **characterized in** that said electronic data storage device is used together with separately applied message traffic selected from the group comprising a letter, an e-mail, a facsimile, which selection is provided with a file reference corresponding with data individualized with respect to the recipient of such selection, which data is stored in the electronic data storage device, and in that the electronic data storage device comprises at least one access reference relating to the recipient, and that access to the individualized data in the electronic data storage device is released to one of the communication means after the file reference and a reference identical with the access reference has been transmitted by means of said communication means.
2. A device according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the file reference applied to the selection from the group comprising a letter, an e-mail, a facsimile, is a machine-readable reference, in that the communication means comprise an intelligent terminal, associated with which is a device for reading the file reference and in that, after reading the file reference, the intelligent terminal creates a reference which is adapted to the access reference and transmits it with the file reference to the electronic data storage device in order to obtain access to the individualized data.
3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that the access reference is a reference adapted to the recipient of the letter, facsimile or e-mail such as, for instance, a trade registration number.
4. A device according to one of the claims 1-3, **characterized in** that the electronic data storage device

further holds a pass-word, which is to be applied by the recipient and which is associated with the individualized data relating to the respective recipient and stored in the electronic data storage device, and in that access to 5 the individualized data in the electronic data storage device is released to one of the communication means subsequent to transmitting with it a reference corresponding to the pass-word.

10 5. A device according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the electronic data storage device is part of internet.

15 6. A device according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the file reference on the letter or facsimile is a bar code, in that the electronic data storage device forms part of the internet, in that the communication means comprise a personal computer with which a bar code reader is associated as well as a chip card reader, and in that a chip card is provided on which a reference is stored which reference is the same as the access reference, and possibly other references to protect access to the individualized data intended for the recipient. 20

7. A device according to claim 6, **characterized** in that a pass-word is used as a further reference for securing access.

25 8. A device according to claim 6 or 7, **characterized** in that the bar code is combined with a URL.

9. A letter to be applied with the device according to one of the claims 1-8, which letter is enclosed in a sealed window envelope, **characterized** in that the same is 30 provided with a file reference to be read through the window of the window envelope.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l	Application No
PCT/NL 98/00651	

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 375 138 A (IBM) 27 June 1990 see abstract; claims 1-6 ----	1-9
X	EP 0 375 139 A (IBM) 27 June 1990 see claims 1-8 ----	1-9
X	EP 0 471 639 A (IBM) 19 February 1992 see abstract; claims 1-9 ----	1-9
X	US 5 493 692 A (THEIMER MARVIN M ET AL) 20 February 1996 see abstract; claims 1-8 -----	1-9

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 January 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/01/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Suendermann, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte, Application No

PCT/NL 98/00651

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
EP 0375138	A	27-06-1990	CA	1321656 A	24-08-1993
			DE	68924403 D	02-11-1995
			DE	68924403 T	02-05-1996
			JP	2219335 A	31-08-1990
EP 0375139	A	27-06-1990	US	4962532 A	09-10-1990
			CA	1319760 A	29-06-1993
			DE	68924473 D	09-11-1995
			DE	68924473 T	30-05-1996
			JP	2038789 C	28-03-1996
			JP	2190057 A	26-07-1990
			JP	7077381 B	16-08-1995
EP 0471639	A	19-02-1992	US	5144557 A	01-09-1992
			JP	1993558 C	22-11-1995
			JP	6067999 A	11-03-1994
			JP	7027499 B	29-03-1995
US 5493692	A	20-02-1996	NONE		